



Language Guide to Transfer Errors

Languages covered in alphabetical order:

- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese
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- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Haitian Creole
- Creole
- Hebrew
- Japanese
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Thai
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Hindi

Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Arabic
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>No indefinite article with profession.</p> <p>Definite article with days, months, places, idioms.</p>	<p><i>He is student.</i> <i>She lawyer.</i></p> <p><i>She is in the bed.</i> <i>He lives in Peru.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS</p> <p><u>Be</u> can be omitted.</p> <p>Past perfect form will <u>be</u>.</p> <p>Different tense boundaries from English.</p> <p>No – ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain.</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i></p> <p><i>They were arrived.</i></p> <p><i>I study here for a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb precedes subject.</p> <p>Coordination favored over subordination.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive.</p>	<p><i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i></p> <p><i>- frequent use of <u>and</u> and <u>so</u>.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.</p> <p>Personal pronouns restate.</p> <p>No human / non human distinction for relative pronoun (who / which).</p> <p>Pronoun object added at end of relative clause.</p>	<p><i>My Father he lives in</i></p> <p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i> <i>The people which arrived.</i></p> <p><i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – BENGALI
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb last	<i>..... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i>
<u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> No distinction between he/she, his/her	<i>My sister dropped his purse.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Chinese
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>No articles</p>	<p><i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i></p>
<p>VERS AND VERBALS.</p> <p><u>Be</u> can be omitted.</p> <p>No intense inflections</p> <p>No inflection for person or number.</p> <p>Different tense boundaries from English.</p> <p>No – ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain.</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i></p> <p><i>He have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i></p> <p><i>The singer have big band.</i></p> <p><i>I stay here for a year.</i> <i>He has left yesterday.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Relative clause or restrictive phrase precedes noun it modifies.</p> <p>Inversion of subject and verb rare.</p> <p>Conjunctions occur in pairs.</p> <p>Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)</p>	<p><i>The enrolled in community college student.</i> <i>A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i></p> <p><i>She is leaving and so am.</i></p> <p><i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i> <i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i></p> <p><i>Is raining.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</p> <p>No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns.</p> <p>Nouns and adjectives have same form.</p>	<p><i>I gave the forms to she.</i></p> <p><i>She is very beauty woman.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
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No plural form after a number.	<i>They felt very safety on the train.</i>
No plural (or optional) forms of nouns.	<i>Four new lamp.</i> <i>Several good book.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Farsi
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p>ARTICLES No articles</p> <p>No-ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Conjunctions occur in pairs.</p>	<p><i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i></p> <p><i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i></p>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> No human/non human distinction for relative pronoun (who/which).</p> <p>Pronoun object added at end of relative clause.</p> <p>No distinction between he/she and his/her.</p> <p>No plural form after a number.</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i></p> <p><i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i></p> <p><i>My sister dropped his purse.</i></p> <p><i>Four new lamp.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – French
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES No indefinite article with profession</p> <p>Definite article used for generalization.</p> <p>Definite article with proper noun.</p>	<p><i>He is student. She is lawyer.</i></p> <p><i>The photography is an art. The books are more expensive than the disks.</i></p> <p><i>The professor Brackert teaches in Frankfurt.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS. No progressive forms.</p> <p>Different tense Boundaries from English</p> <p>No-<u>ing</u> (gerund) / infinitive distinction</p>	<p><i>They still discuss the problem. When I walked in, she slept.</i></p> <p><i>I study here for a year. He has left yesterday.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go. I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb subject order in dependent clause.</p> <p>Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive.</p>	<p><i>I knew what would decide the committee.</i></p> <p><i>I like very much clam chowder. They efficiently organized the work.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.</p> <p>No human / non human distinction for relative pronoun (who / which)</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week. The people which arrived.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – German
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES Definite article used for organization. Definite article with proper noun.	<i>The photography is an art.</i> <i>The books are more expensive than the disks.</i> <i>The professor Brackert teaches in Frankfurt.</i>
VERB AND VERBALS No progressive forms	<i>They still discuss the problem.</i> <i>When I walked in, she slept.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE. Commas set off a dependent clause.	<i>He knows, that we are alright.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Greek
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>Definite articles used for generalization.</p> <p>Definite article with proper noun.</p>	<p><i>The photography is an art.</i> <i>The books are more expensive than the disks.</i></p> <p><i>The Professor Brackert teaches in Frankfurt.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS.</p> <p>No progressive forms.</p> <p>No – <u>ing</u> (gerund) infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>They still discuss the problem.</i> <i>When I walked in, she slept</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb last (in dependent clause).</p>	<p><i>... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – GUJARATI
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u></p> <p>Personal pronouns restate</p> <p>No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns</p> <p>No distinction between he/she and his/her</p>	<p><i>My father he lives in.</i></p> <p><i>I gave the forms to she.</i></p> <p><i>My sister dropped his purse.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – HAITIAN CREOLE
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>ARTICLES</u> No indefinite article with profession</p> <p>No article used for generalization</p>	<p><i>He is student. She lawyer.</i></p> <p><i>Bird can fly.</i></p>
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> <u>Be</u> can be omitted</p> <p>Different tense boundaries from English</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain. She working now.</i></p> <p><i>I study here from a year. He has left yesterday.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u></p> <p>Verb-subject order in dependent clause</p> <p>Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive</p>	<p><i>I knew what would decide the committee.</i></p> <p><i>I like very much clam chowder. They efficiently organized the work.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay. I want that they try harder.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – HEBREW
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb precedes subject</p>	<p><i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i></p>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u> Pronoun object added at end of relative clause</p>	<p><i>The house that I used to live in it is big.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – HINDI
This list is not definitive

Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>ARTICLES</u> No definite articles</p>	<p><i>Store on corner is closed.</i></p>
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> Overuse of progressive nouns</p>	<p><i>I am wanting to leave now.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> <u>that</u> clause rather than infinitive Verb last</p>	<p><i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i> <i>.... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Japanese
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>No articles</p> <p>No indefinite article with profession.</p>	<p><i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i></p> <p><i>He is student.</i> <i>She lawyer.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS</p> <p>No inflection for person or number.</p> <p>Different limits for passive.</p>	<p><i>The singer have big band.</i></p> <p><i>They were stolen their luggage.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb last</p> <p>Relative clause or restriction phrase precedes noun it modifies.</p> <p>Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)</p> <p>No equivalent of ‘there is / there are.’</p>	<p><i>...(when) the teacher the money collected.</i></p> <p><i>The enrolled in community college student...</i> <i>A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i></p> <p><i>Is raining.</i></p> <p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.</p> <p>Nouns and adjectives have some form.</p> <p>No plural (or optional) forms of nouns.</p>	<p><i>She is very beauty woman.</i> <i>They felt very safety on the train.</i></p> <p><i>Several good book .</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Korean
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES	
No indefinite article with profession. No indefinite article (uses <u>one</u> for <u>a</u> and depends on context)	<i>He is student. She lawyer. He ran into one tree.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS	
No inflection for person or number. Different limits for passive. Infinitive not used to express purpose	<i>The singer have big band. They were stolen their luggage. I go out for having my dinner.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE	
Verb last Relative clause or restrictive phrase precedes noun it modifies. No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / <u>there are</u>	<i>...(when) the teacher the money collected The enrolled in community college student. A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin. This article says four reasons to eat bananas. In the garden has many trees.</i>
NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS	
No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns. No plural form after a number. No plural forms of nouns. No relative pronouns.	<i>I gave the forms to she. Four new lamp. Several good book. The book is on the table is mine.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – PORTUGUESE
This list is not definitive

Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>ARTICLES</u> Definite article used for generalization</p>	<p><i>The photography is an art.</i> <i>The books are more expensive than the disks.</i></p>
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No – ing (gerund) / infinitive distinction</p>	<p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / <u>there are</u></p>	<p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – **Russian**
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES No articles</p>	<p><i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS Be can be omitted</p> <p>No progressive forms</p> <p>No inflection for person or number</p> <p>Different limits for passive</p>	<p><i>India more religious than Britain</i> <i>She working now.</i> <i>He always cheerful.</i></p> <p><i>They still discuss the problem.</i></p> <p><i>The singer have big band.</i></p> <p><i>They were stolen their luggage.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE Verbs precedes subject</p> <p>Relative clause or restrictive phrase proceeds noun it modifies</p> <p><u>That</u> clause rather than infinitive</p> <p><u>Commas</u> set off a dependant clause</p> <p>No equivalent of <u>there is/ there are</u></p>	<p><i>Good grades received every student in the class</i></p> <p><i>The enrolled in community college student.</i> <i>A nine meter high impressive monument to Lenin.</i> <i>He gave a too difficult for me book.</i></p> <p><i>I want that you stay.</i> <i>I want that they try harder.</i></p> <p><i>He knows, that we are right.</i></p> <p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>

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Language – **Russian**
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<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS No human/nonhuman distinction for relative pronoun (who/which)</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week. The people which arrived.</i></p>
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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Spanish
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Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p>ARTICLES</p> <p>Definite articles used for generalization.</p> <p>Definite article with proper noun.</p>	<p><i>The photography is an art.</i> <i>The books are more expensive than the disks.</i></p> <p><i>The Professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i></p>
<p>VERBS AND VERBALS</p> <p>No – <u>ing</u> (gerund) / infinitive distinction.</p>	<p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE.</p> <p>Verb precedes subject.</p> <p><u>That</u> clause can be omitted (especially pronoun)</p> <p>No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / there are.</p>	<p><i>Good grades received every student in the class.</i></p> <p><i>Is raining.</i></p> <p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>
<p>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS.</p> <p>Personal pronouns restate.</p> <p>No-human / nonhuman distinction for relative pronoun (who/which).</p> <p>No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns.</p> <p>Adjectives show number.</p> <p>Double negatives are routinely used.</p> <p>Pronoun subjects can be omitted.</p>	<p>My Father he lives in California.</p> <p>Here is the student which you met her last week. The people which arrived.</p> <p>I give the forms to she.</p> <p>I have helpfu<u>l</u>s friend<u>s</u></p> <p>They don't know nothing.</p> <p>My boss complained when she saw the mess.</p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Swahili
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<u>ARTICLES</u> <u>No Articles</u>	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – THAI
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No tense inflections</p> <p>No inflection for person or number</p> <p>Voice</p>	<p><i>We have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i></p> <p><i>The singer have big band.</i></p> <p><i>My name based on Chinese characters.</i> <i>A miracle was happened.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u></p> <p>Subject can be omitted (especially pronoun)</p> <p>No equivalent of <u>there is</u> / <u>there are</u> (Thai uses adverb of place and have)</p>	<p><i>Is raining.</i></p> <p><i>This article says four reasons to eat bananas.</i> <i>In the garden has many trees.</i></p>
<p><u>NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS</u></p> <p>No human/non human distinctive for relative pronoun (who/which)</p> <p>No distinction between subject and object forms of pronouns</p> <p>No distinction between he/she, his/her</p> <p>No plural (or optional) forms of nouns</p> <p>Pronoun subjects can be omitted</p>	<p><i>Here is the student which you met her last week.</i> <i>The people which arrived.</i></p> <p><i>I gave the forms to she.</i></p> <p><i>My sister dropped his purse.</i></p> <p><i>Several good book.</i></p> <p><i>My boss complained when she was the mess.</i></p>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – TURKISH
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<u>ARTICLES</u> No definite article	<i>Store on corner is closed.</i>
<u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Verb last	<i>.... (when) the teacher the money collected.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
Language – Urdu
This list is not definitive

Language Features	Sample transfer error in English
ARTICLES No articles	<i>Sun is hot.</i> <i>I bought book.</i> <i>Computer has changed our lives.</i>
VERBS AND VERBALS. Overuse of progressive nouns.	<i>I am wanting to leave now.</i>
WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE. Adverb can occur between verb and object or before verb.	<i>I like very much clam chowder.</i> <i>They efficiently organised the work.</i>

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Language Guide to Transfer Errors
 Language – VIETNAMESE
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Language Features	<i>Sample transfer error in English</i>
<p><u>VERBS AND VERBALS</u> No tense inflections</p> <p>Voice</p> <p>No – ing (gerund / infinitive distinction)</p>	<p><i>He have a good time yesterday.</i> <i>When I was little, I always walk to school.</i></p> <p><i>My name based on Chinese characters.</i> <i>A miracle was happening.</i></p> <p><i>She avoids to go.</i> <i>I enjoy to play tennis.</i></p>
<p><u>WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE</u> Conjunctions occur in pairs</p>	<p><i>Although, she is rich but she wears simple clothes.</i> <i>Even if I had money, I would also not buy that car.</i></p>

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